

Sea-Level Rise Comments

Lisa B. [REDACTED]

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To:

[CoastalSLRGuidanceDocument](#)

Friday, February 14, 2014 11:43 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I have reviewed the "Sea Level Rise Guidance Document" with special consideration to the area that I live, just east of the north bay of Humboldt Bay in Arcata, California. I have been active in agricultural preservation in this region for over 20-years and own a small farm which consists of grazed wetlands where we have established 200+ organic apple trees on the eastern shelf. As you know, agriculture has long been productive on these grazed wetlands with diverse investment skirting the bay/sloughs over the years. Investment in the expansion of the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in recent years and it's increased access opportunity is clearly at risk without maintained and managed dikes.

I am concerned with policies in this document which steer away from the maintenance of existing dikes that protect current infrastructure necessary to the functioning of our small city; regional roads (101 and 255), waste-water treatment; low income development and agriculture.

While living shorelines can and should be used to help keep wetland habitats vital given anticipated sea level rise, it is my opinion that they should be used in conjunction with existing levies as a means to help protect agricultural and human resource values that exist surrounding the bay. As evident in the document, the Humboldt Bay region has unique challenges that our local policymakers and scientists are still working on getting a grasp of and how to proceed to protect not only our unique natural resources but our communities as well. Continuing to maintain the dikes may be the most feasible and economical solution and could end up protecting substantial wetland values if done in conjunction with more innovative ideas. The opportunity for public access to be expanded across the bay area in conjunction with the maintenance of the dikes should not be overlooked.

Thank you for your attention.

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